

**AMERICAN STRING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
National Executive Board Minutes**

Date: January 18-19-20, 2007  
Location: Virginia

**Present:**

**Board Members Present**

Mary Wagner, President  
Jeffrey Solow, President-Elect  
Robert Gillespie, Past-President  
Denese Odegaard, Secretary  
Barbara Eads, Publications Chair  
Judy Weigert Bossuat, Member-at-Large  
Beth Gilbert, Member-at-Large  
Kristin Turner, Member-at-Large

**Staff Members Present**

Donna Hale, Executive Director  
Beth Danner, Deputy Director of  
Conferences & Membership  
Jody McNamara, Deputy Director, Finance & Administration  
Mary Jane Dye, Director of Communications  
Elisabeth Bookwalter, Development Manager  
Jennifer Wellman, Public Affairs Assistant & Office Manager

**Other Guests:** Kirk Moss, National Endowment Chair

**Absent:** Neil Lilien and Midori Goto

**Next Meeting Date:** May 17-18-19, 2007 – Washington D.C.

**Future Meeting Dates:** January 3-4-5, 2008 – Washington D.C.

**Conference:** March 7-10, 2007 Detroit

Agenda Item	Discussion – Conclusion	Recommendations or actions
Meeting called to order by President Wagner at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2007		
1.A. Read and approve the June 2006 minutes. 1.D. Review procedures		<b>Corrections -</b> 1a. Corrections to minutes: Move p. 4 Item 9 to p. 1 Item 1C

<p>for minutes distribution, approval and posting on the web.</p>		<p>(Interim Motions)          Motion: Extend the state incorporation deadline date from Sept. to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006.          Palumbo/Jones          Adopted: Unanimous          Motion completed in April</p> <p>p. 4 #11 change Judy to Bossuat</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Approve June 2006 minutes.          Solow/Gillespie          Adopted: Unanimous</p>
<p>1.B. Read and approve Action Agenda</p>		<p><b>Motion:</b> Approve action agenda.          Eads/Gilbert          Adopted: Unanimous</p>
<p>1.C. Interim board actions read into minutes</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>2. Information Agenda – Committee Reports</p>	<p>A. The board clarifies that the purpose of the Committee on Studio Instruction (COSI ) is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. plan pre-conference sessions</li> <li>2. represent the studio teachers’ needs on the annual conference planning committee</li> <li>3. create ways to assist studio teachers as members of ASTA</li> </ol> <p>B. Collegiate Chapter Liaison clarification of duties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to develop an improvement plan (i.e. revise student chapter award application) for next year with board liaison, Denese Odegaard.</li> </ol> <p>C. Bob Gillespie’s White Paper will be put on the web.</p> <p>D. The board handbook has been revised by Bob Gillespie and Barbara Eads.</p>	<p><b>Motion:</b> Accept the Information Agenda and its reports.          Bossuat/Eads          Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p><b>Research Committee</b>  <b>Motion:</b> To accept the suggested Research Committee mission statement as revised by the board: The mission of the research committee is to further and encourage scholarship and research within the string education profession. Activities may include, but are not limited to: (1) disseminating research to the membership, (2) supporting and planning of research and poster</p>

	<p>E. A DVD for Alt Styles will be produced at the Detroit Conference using a grant from NAMM. Footage is being done at the Detroit Conference.</p>	<p>sessions at professional conferences, (3) articulation of string research agenda, and (4) recommendation of string research projects to the national board for funding consideration.  Gillespie/Bossuat  Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p><b>Other Research Committee Decisions:</b>  The board will entertain funding for any suggested research projects if the project is explained and a budget is attached.</p> <p>Juried poster sessions would begin at the 2008 Conference. Three persons, who are not committee members, would conduct a blind peer review.</p> <p>ASTA will commit to two back to back sessions to use as the committee wishes but with no monetary contribution.</p> <p>Approval of space in the <i>AST</i> for research findings and their application to teaching.</p> <p><b>Other:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Arrange Mission Statement Goals in priority order.</li> <li>2. Change the board report templates to include the specific mission of each committee for continuity of</li> </ol>
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		information from chair to chair.
3. Membership Report	<p>Overview of Marketing Campaign – the life and disability insurance are approved and dental is pending. All three, when complete, will be marketed at the same time.</p> <p>One membership goal is to increase membership of Studio Teachers.</p> <p>Discussion of analysis of member profession data (i.e. elementary teacher, middle school teacher, high school teacher, performer, studio teacher etc.) and ways for states to be able to access target audiences.</p> <p>Canadian Chapters - discussion of potential chapters and how to proceed.</p>	<p>1. The Committee on Studio Instruction is assigned the task of enhancing studio teacher membership.</p> <p>2. The ASTA office will examine a way for state membership chairs to access name, address, phone number and membership expiration date online.</p> <p>3. The Leadership Retreat will be an avenue to discuss membership.</p> <p>4. The task of examining and reshaping membership categories (primary professions vs. secondary profession) was given to the Research Committee to be completed by May before membership brochures are sent. Beth Danner will assist.</p> <p>ASTA will meet with Canadians wishing to form chapters at the Detroit 2007 Conference.</p>
4. Foundation Report	<p>Discussion of various foundation projects.</p> <p>Progress of 60K will be reviewed at the Detroit membership meeting.</p> <p>Silent Auction – members can email a proxy bid.</p>	<p><b>Motion:</b> If the Auday-Giormenti Company is not going to provide the complete double bass as the competition prize, the Auday-Giormenti Double Bass Competition will cease to exist. Solow/Gillespie Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p>Special Project Grant description to be rewritten and posted on the web along with past grant winner information and total amount of grant money</p>

		<p>available.</p> <p>Publicize the youth division of the Merle Isaac Composition Contest by notifying student chapters, ASCAP, State Leadership training attendees, state newsletter editors, and information will be put on the web.</p> <p>A current list of the music reading folder contents will be kept at the ASTA office. The chair will keep a list of the states that request folders. A list of the repertoire will be on the web and we will encourage publishers to donate more sets to expedite movement of folder sets from person to person.</p> <p>Committee formed to review and revise the Urban Outreach Program Beth Gilbert, Judy Bossuat, and Kristen Turner to complete this task by the May board meeting.</p>
<p>5. Publications</p>	<p>A. Review of Projects and Recommendations  B. Certificate Program for Strings Update  C. Discussion of <i>American String Teacher</i>  D. Summer Conferences</p> <p>David Littrell will be the editor for revising the Syllabus which will be completed by the fall of 2008.</p>	<p>The Certificate Program for Strings will be put on the web and not printed. Instructors may select and download the portions needed.</p> <p>Barbara Eads will proceed with cost estimates for approved projects.</p> <p>The Ultimate Strings CD will be sent for review.</p>

		<p>The board will review the use of themes for <i>AST</i> at the May board meeting.</p> <p>Process of Summer Conference packages will be reviewed at the May board meeting.</p>
6. Conferences	<p>A. National Orchestra Festival – there was a strong suggestion that performance groups attend other performances while in attendance at the festival.</p> <p>B. National High School Honors Orchestra</p> <p>C. Detroit 2007</p> <p>D. Albuquerque 2008</p> <p>Discussion of selecting fewer performing groups (3-4) for conferences and showcasing them for optimum audience participation.</p>	<p>NHSHO - Further discussion needed regarding the age range and moving the application deadline to spring. Beginning in 2009, the application will specify the exact two years of target students (i.e. 2008-2009) on the information disseminated.</p> <p>Ask state leaders at the State Leadership Training to fill open presider positions for the conference.</p> <p>The office will research pre-conference attendees to target areas of interest for presentations.</p> <p>Discussion of products being sold at sessions and possible remedies. Clear information regarding this will be in the contract and those who sell products will not be permitted to do sessions at future conferences.</p>
Meeting Adjourned 5:45 p.m.		
Meeting called to order Friday, January 19 at 8:30 a.m.		
7. State Chapters	A. Spring Campaign	Spring contact by board members with

	<p>B. Options for States that Do Not Incorporate  C. State Leadership Meeting – many ideas throughout the board meeting were added to possible topics at this meeting  D. State Chapter Awards – winners announced for specific awards</p> <p>Several states need assistance with developing future leadership in their states. Other concerns are geographical locations and a few people doing the majority of the work</p>	<p>state leaders can include phone calls prior to the conference, personal connection at the conference and follow-up calls after the conference.</p> <p>The ASTA office will follow up with states that have not completed the incorporation procedures or accepted the insurance offerings.</p> <p>Revision and possible modifications of the state chapter newsletter awards will be put on the State Leadership training agenda.</p>
<p>8. Finances</p>	<p>A. Review of Audit – very good feedback from auditor.  B. Year-to-Date numbers</p> <p>Financial growth moving in a positive direction.</p> <p>The dues increase by the rate of inflation annually and take effect the new fiscal year starting July 1.</p>	<p>ASTA will send state officials a reminder to file 990 tax forms if it has been determined that their state needs to file.</p> <p>Tax information will be put into the state leadership handbook, discussed at the Leadership Workshop and put into the state president’s newsletter.</p>
<p>9. Advocacy</p>	<p>Support Our Strings – a powerful Power Point to show to parents, school board members and administrators. It can be customized for your own school, used to start a string program, used as proactive material or used to save changes or cuts to string programs. This is downloadable on the web along with other advocacy PDF documents. This could also be customized, by the ASTA office, for potential donors to preview. Another shorter version will also be created and downloadable.</p> <p>Creation of a downloadable 10 minute advocacy video called Why Strings is about promoting playing and teaching stringed instruments and will be filmed during the 2007 Detroit Conference. A 30 minute version will also be created for advocacy use.</p>	<p><b>Motion:</b> The board commends Jennifer Wellman on the work done with the advocacy information created for the membership.  Bossuat/Turner  Adopted – Unanimous</p> <p>Present the Power Point at the Business meeting at the conference along with news releases to other publications, NASM, string education institutions, Society of Music Teacher Education and NAMM so that many have access to this tool. There is a possibility of a booth at other conferences for school boards and</p>

	<p>NCLB Reauthorization – members will have the opportunity to send feedback to the NCLB Sub-Committee on how NCLB has affected their specific programs via response from ASTA eNews. A drive to contact government officials using Capwiz will also be included in this letter.</p>	<p>school administrators in the future. The Save Our Strings Power Point will be available for viewing at the ASTA Advocacy booth in Detroit.</p> <p>A powerful and concise request to the membership to contact their congressional representatives regarding NCLB legislation via Capwiz will be written by Denese Odegaard. This action will take very little time to execute and members may cut and paste pre-written messages into the body of their Capwiz email.</p>
<p>10. Endowment Overview</p>	<p>A. Board Roles in Fundraising Reviewed. The campaign will be publicly kicked off in 2008. Contributions may include annual giving, planned giving (i.e. estate, stocks etc.), major gifts, corporate solicitations, or instrument donations. This is an investment into the mission of the organization and will ensure that there are programs for children in future generations.</p> <p>B. Charity Event</p>	<p><b>Motion:</b> This board reaffirms its role in the support and active development of the endowment fund. Prior to their candidacy, future board members will be made aware of their need to actively participate in the development of the fund. We recognize that each board member will participate at their own comfort level once educated in this area (i.e. making phone calls, personal visits, writing personal letters and thank you notes). Endowment income may range from cash donations, instrument donation, estate planning, to stock options. The interest from the endowment fund will be used to support the following programmatic priorities as adopted by the membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeding the growth and development of new school orchestras.</li> <li>• Providing young people in need with instruments, bows, and scholarships to continue their music-making.</li> <li>• Developing, recruiting, and</li> </ul>



		<p>retaining professional string teachers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting music education research.</li> <li>• Seeding the creation of groundbreaking string programs and projects at the local level.</li> <li>• Developing advocacy materials and programs that support new string players, orchestras, and teachers.</li> </ul> <p>Eads/Solow Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p>A brochure will be created to assist in delivery of the endowment fund-raising and to leave with potential donors.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Contingent upon acceptance of a performance headliner, the board supports the ASTA Gala Benefit Event in the fall of 2009. Solow/Gilbert Adopted: Unanimous</p>
Meeting Adjourned at 4:45 p.m. Friday		
Meeting called to order 8:30 a.m. Saturday, January 20, 2007.		
11. Update on Building Fund Issues	Discussion on present funds and what is needed for purchase of an office building or space.	
12. STEP	String Teacher Enhancement Program to be premiered at the 2008 Conference in Albuquerque	Conference call will be held to complete the final details of the program.
13. Web Site	The web site needs reorganization by a professional company so that members can optimally locate critical information on programs	

	provided by our organization. Downloadable information saves the organization a great deal of money as well.	
14. Solo Competition	Discussion on how these contests can be better publicized so that more of the general public is aware of the contest and the contest results.	The Alt Styles Committee needs to have a formal proposal and attached budget for the board to review and approve before proceeding with the program.
Overflow	<p>A. Instrument Brochure- Committee has been developing this brochure. There will be a session in Detroit to seek further comments from the membership.</p> <p>B. Careers in Teaching</p> <p>C. National String Project Consortium Update – Board member, Judy Bossuat will attend meetings.</p> <p>D. Member-at Large three year term</p> <p>E. Board Elections – President-Elect, Member-at-Large and Secretary positions.</p>	<p>Careers in String Teaching can be promoted at the Collegiate Roundtable at Detroit, put in ASTA eNews and state newsletters, information in <i>AST</i>, ads in <i>Teen Strings</i>, and by including it as one of the 41 ASTA programs.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> The board accepts Careers in String Teaching as an official program of ASTA. Odegaard/Eads Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Due to the passing of the new by-laws in 2006, that two of the elected members-at-large, Kirsten Turner and Beth Gilbert, serve three year terms in lieu of one year terms. Their terms will now expire in May 2009. Solow/Eads Adopted: Unanimous</p> <p>Board members will submit names of potential candidates for open positions by April 15 to Bob Gillespie. Discuss potential candidates at the May meeting.</p>
Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.		
Future Meeting Dates	May 17-18-19, 2007 March 7-10 - Detroit Conference	

